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RIVERS **BANNER**

GAZETTE-REPORTER

Local People. Local Stories.



Serving the Rivers, Rapid City, Forrest, Kenton, Oak River, Hamiota and Oak Lake areas for 116 years

Along for the ride and not horsing around

MHSRA present the Oak Lake Sun Spring Rodeo



Jorja Robins of Rapid City, MB competed in the junior high girl's breakaway.

PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

Local high school and junior high riders had their chance to shine last weekend. On Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12, the Manitoba High School Rodeo Association (MHSRA) held their season opening competition in Oak Lake. The competition was strong.

Boden Bond from Kenton, wearing #22, competed in high school team roping, placing ninth. Boden placed fifth in high school tie down roping.

Denver Gompf from Oak Lake, wearing #61, competed in high school team roping, placing twenty-first. Denver placed second in high school tie down roping with a time of 20.89.

more rodeo results on page 6...

Inside...



CAMPING & TICK SEASON
P2



MOTHER'S DAY ART PROJECT
P7

Camping season begins in Manitoba provincial parks

Improvements at several campgrounds including playgrounds, showers



FILE PHOTO

Submitted
BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

A number of provincial parks in southern Manitoba will welcome campers this weekend, officially kicking off the 2024 season, Environment and Climate Change Minister Tracy Schmidt announced today.

"I know many Manitobans, like me and my family, are eager to head out to the great outdoors to camp at one of our province's beautiful provincial parks," said Schmidt. "We encourage all Manitobans to take the opportunity this spring and summer to explore our provincial parks and make lasting memories."

Campers will notice improvements in several provincial campgrounds this season including:

- redevelopment of the Nutimik Lake Museum in Whiteshell Provincial Park;
- new playgrounds at Kiche Manitou in Spruce Woods, Winnipeg Beach, White Lake in Whiteshell and Whitefish Lake;
- completed work on water and wastewater treatment system upgrades at Asessippi, Birds Hill and Paint Lake

provincial parks; and
• new washroom and shower facility at Bakers Narrows Provincial Park.

All other provincial park campgrounds will open for the May long weekend. Manitobans can make a reservation for campsites, cabins, yurts and group-use areas through the Parks Reservation Service, online at www.manitobaparks.com or by calling (toll-free) 1-888-482-2267.

Reminders for visitors and campers at Manitoba provincial parks include:

- check the Manitoba Parks website at www.manitobaparks.com for advisories before travelling;
- buy and print provincial park vehicle permits online before leaving home at www.manitobaenergising.ca;
- all campers must check in at campground offices upon arrival to receive camping permits;
- have reservation confirmation and personal identification ready for check-in;
- be 'Wildlife Smart' by maintaining a clean campsite, keeping all food, trash, toiletries and cooking utensils locked in a vehicle or trailer, and pack out trash and

JOB FAIR

Look forward to seeing you there!

June 8, 2024
9am to 1pm

Rolling Dale Enterprises is hosting a Job Fair. Staff will be available to discuss Support Worker job responsibilities, wages, benefits and positions currently available.

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dalrymplesgreenhouse.com

recyclables before leaving;
• keep all pets on leash; and
• keep all campfires in approved pits such as those found in campsites and check with the campground office for any campfire restriction.

Do not transport firewood from Winnipeg to areas outside the city to prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer, an invasive species of beetle. To avoid charges and fines, purchase firewood from local retailers at or near most campgrounds.

For more information on provincial parks, visit www.manitobaparks.com.

Manitobans urged to be vigilant during tick season

Focus on prevention and early treatment during Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Submitted
BY MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care is reminding people to be vigilant about ticks, take steps to prevent bites and know when to seek treatment. Blacklegged ticks, often called deer ticks, are a risk to human health because they can transmit diseases like Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Powassan virus disease. These diseases can all be serious, particularly in older adults, young children or people with compromised immune systems or underlying medical conditions.

Public health officials recommend visiting a health-care provider within 72 hours of removing a tick to receive preventative treatment for Lyme disease if:

- the bite was from a reliably identified blacklegged tick; and
- the tick was attached for 36 hours or more, or the tick was engorged (filled with blood).

Blacklegged ticks may be found anytime snow is not on the ground, with peak activity in spring and fall. Due to the health risk posed by blacklegged ticks, it is important to be able to distinguish between them and the more common wood tick. While wood ticks are a nuisance, in Manitoba these species do not transmit



FILE PHOTO

diseases. Blacklegged ticks have a red-orange body, black legs and a black spot on their back, and are smaller than wood ticks. Adult females are about the size of a sesame seed. When attached and feeding, blacklegged ticks become larger and change colour to grey and brown. Wood ticks are larger, brownish in colour, with white markings on their back. Photos comparing wood ticks and blacklegged ticks are available at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/tickborne/about.html

Anyone who finds a tick on animals, humans or in

various habitats can submit a picture to have it identified by experts, to confirm if the tick belongs to a species capable of transmitting diseases. For more information or to submit a picture of a tick, visit www.etick.ca.

Reduce your risk of tick bites and disease exposure by:

- applying an appropriate tick repellent on exposed skin and clothing, following label directions;
- wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts;
- tucking in clothing to create a barrier;
- staying to the centre of walking trails;
- inspecting yourself, children and pets after spending time outdoors;
- removing ticks as soon as possible from people and pets, using tweezers; and
- keeping grass and shrubs around homes cut short to create drier environments that are less suitable for tick survival.

Milder winters and shifting weather patterns caused by climate change means ticks are expanding their geographical range to more regions of the province, although southern Manitoba remains the highest-risk area.

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. To learn more about blacklegged ticks, tick-borne diseases like Lyme disease, prevention and treatment, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/tickborne/.

FAITHFULLY YOURS
NEIL STROHSCHNEIN
God's School of Continuous Education, Part 1



It's the world's most unique school. We are automatically enrolled when we are born. We graduate the day we die. Classes are always in session. There are no recesses, lunch hours or holidays. Every class session ends with a pop quiz-an event sent to test us to see how well we have learned our lessons.

This unique school is God's school of continuous education. He is the school's Principal. He wrote the school's text book (the Bible); and he decides the daily lesson plans for every person on this planet. And since each of us is a unique person, God's lesson plans are as unique as we are; and are tailor-made to our daily needs and the challenges we will face.

Three of the courses in God's School are compulsory.

The first is birth. It is an event over which we had absolutely no control. We did not choose our date of our birth. We did not choose our parents. We did not choose the our country of birth. Nor did we choose the community in which we would

spend our early years or the parents and family that would guide us through them. Those choices were made for us.

The second compulsory course is death. As with birth, we have no control over the exact date and time of our death. God alone knows that. All we know for certain is our bodies are not built to last forever. One day they will get sick and ultimately die. Only God knows when that will happen..

The third compulsory course is life-the time between birth and death. We must live our lives one day at a time; facing the challenges that come our way, making choices and dealing with their consequences, whether good or bad.

Some of our choices are so routine that we make them without thinking. The consequences of these choices won't last for long. For example, if you choose to wear a mismatched pair of socks to work, and one of your colleagues points that out, you will suffer temporary embarrassment, but that is all. You can always change socks when you go home for lunch. Problem solved.

Some choices will have longer term consequences. These include where you will work, where you will live, who you will have as friends and which local organizations you will join. Once made, you will have to live with their consequences for a long time. An unwise choice can be undone. It may take time and cost money; but it can be done.

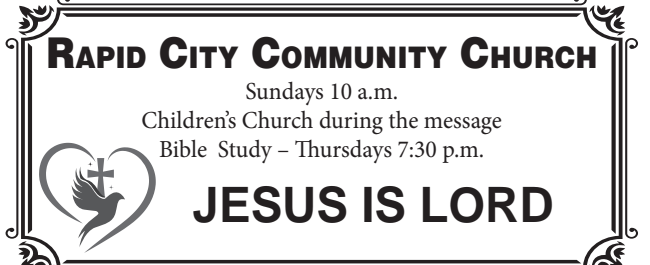
Some choices have consequences that last a lifetime. This list includes who you will marry, how many children you will have and what career you will choose to pursue. Two of these choices can be undone. Dysfunctional marriages can be dissolved.

If you are unsatisfied with your current career choice, you can train for a different one. But your children will always be your children-you can cut social and economic ties with them, but you will never be able to deny that they are your children.

One more choice must be considered. It is a choice that we all must make at some time in our lives. This choice requires us to answer this question: "Who will we acknowledge as supreme being and ultimate authority in our lives?" The consequences of this choice will last for time and eternity. We will explore it in detail next week.



Saturday, June 1
 10am to 4pm
 Carberry Memorial Hall
 Market and Workshops
 Visit us @ bluehillsfibrefestival.wordpress.com



RAPID CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Sundays 10 a.m.
 Children's Church during the message
 Bible Study - Thursdays 7:30 p.m.
JESUS IS LORD



Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
RIVERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
 447 Edward Street ~ 204-328-7882



Westman Canadian Reformed Church
 Worship Services
 Sundays at 10:00am
"Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together." Psalm 98:8



Don't miss the deadline!

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 🌐 www.riversbanner.com ✉ info@riversbanner.com

New locally created Crossword

Across

- 1 - Grenada town
- 8 - Leather strips
- 14 - Like so many foreign names
- 17 - Nazi guard abbr.
- 18 - Stuttered
- 19 - In position
- 20 - Oil additive
- 22 - Broke with a crack
- 23 - Crusted dessert
- 24 - Time periods
- 26 - The answer is ENEAW
- 27 - Male electrical plug
- 28 - Buzzzi and Bader Ginsburg
- 30 - Sick
- 31 - Applies baby powder
- 32 - He launched Idea Boxx
- 34 - Fertilizer beads
- 35 - An old criminal case action
- 36 - Blasting cap
- 37 - Atomizer output (2words)
- 38 - Marine mammal
- 39 - Jolson and Unser
- 41 - Routes
- 43 - Abel's murderer
- 44 - Place to lay on offering to God
- 46 - Hair removal product
- 47 - More of the same
- 48 - Tony the Tiger's flakes
- 50 - Nelson Mandela's country abbr.
- 51 - Smart technology abbr.
- 52 - More bent
- 54 - 1000 equal a litre abbr.
- 55 - Public information
- 58 - Sounds while sleeping
- 59 - Vacuum cleaners (name brand)

Down

- 1 - Brown silk or it's producing silkworm
- 2 - Aircraft control gauges
- 3 - Second in a company's command abbr.
- 4 - Hospital areas abbr.
- 5 - Plenty
- 6 - Foolishly stupid
- 7 - Guess his name or up your first born
- 8 - Helix threaded fastener
- 9 - Set-up a golf ball
- 10 - Radiation measurement
- 11 - Stomach muscle abbr.
- 12 - Undercover police
- 13 - Couch (alternate spelling)

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| 58 | | | | | | | | 59 | | | | |

Created by David Harris of Oak River, MB

- 15 - Resident of Muscat
- 16 - Land of Mount Everest
- 21 - Nationalistic
- 23 - 22nd premier of Manitoba (2016-2021)
- 25 - Actress who portrayed Jenny Wilder in "Little House on the Prairie" Last name Doherty
- 27 - Resident of Port-au-Prince
- 29 - Preserver
- 31 - Hobo
- 33 - Measurement of noise unit
- 34 - Golfing tour abbr.
- 38 - Atlantic and Pacific

- 39 - Distant feelings
- 40 - Satisfied ones appetite
- 42 - Engine quits
- 44 - Elvis Presley's middle name and others of the same
- 45 - Advised
- 48 - Cleaver
- 49 - Refuse the truth
- 52 - "Proud Mary" band abbr.
- 53 - Routes abbr.
- 56 - Negative answer
- 57 - Moon of Jupiter

Tundra

By Chad Carpenter



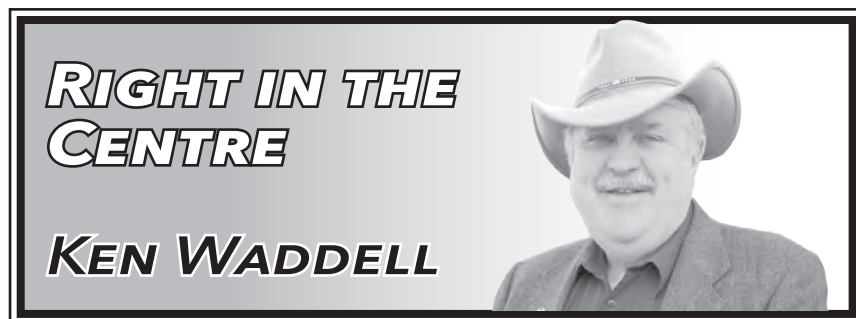
Swatting flies with a sledge hammer

My first encounter with a government edict to eradicate something was in 1971 in my first year as an Ag-rep with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture (MDA). The enemy to be eradicated in 1971 was an old one, Leafy Spurge. I say an old one because, Leafy Spurge was introduced to Canada in the early 1800s coming into the country as a contaminant in imported seed. During the late 1960s and onward, the MDA intensified their set up of local weed control boards and many still function today. The intent of the boards was to oversee the control of noxious weeds in Manitoba. The control methods included the use of herbicides, selective grazing and mowing. Most municipalities implemented road side spraying programs which, thankfully, has been replaced by roadside mowing. Nothing was much uglier than sprayed weeds, brush and even trees along the various roads.

In spite of well intentioned efforts, controlling Leafy Spurge may have had some success, but eradication is impossible. Leafy Spurge is readily seen on a drive by basis across all of Manitoba. Efforts may have controlled it, but it certainly hasn't been eradicated.

Fast forward to 2023-24 and the federal government has become very excited about Zebra Mussels in Manitoba waterways. Clear Lake has been the object of the government's latest mussel attention. One report says there are no Zebra Mussels in Clear Lake, another report says a "clump was found". Zebra Mussels have been in Minnesota Lakes for 30 years raising concerns about effects on sport fishing.

Here's what is said about the problem in Minnesota. "Zebra mussels encrust equipment, such as boat motors and hulls, which reduces performance and efficiency and is costly to clean



and repair. Swimmers and pets can cut their feet on zebra mussels attached to rocks, docks, swim rafts and ladders." Various studies over the past 30 years show that in many cases, the walleye adapt and thrive, in some cases the fish don't grow as fast.

In Manitoba, the mussels can cause clogging of inlets at Hydro dams and can be very costly to clean out. Zebra mussels can be a food source to some fish apparently as well.

My research has been far from extensive but eradicating Zebra Mussels isn't possible and controlling the spread is very difficult. Sources say they number in the hundreds of trillions in the Great Lakes.

Mussels attach themselves to boats and that is one way they spread from lake to lake. My problem is that the federal government has taken a strange approach to Zebra Mussels in Clear Lake. They won't let boats come into the lake except for Parks Canada boats. Two other boats are exempted but they never leave the lake anyway as far as I can see.

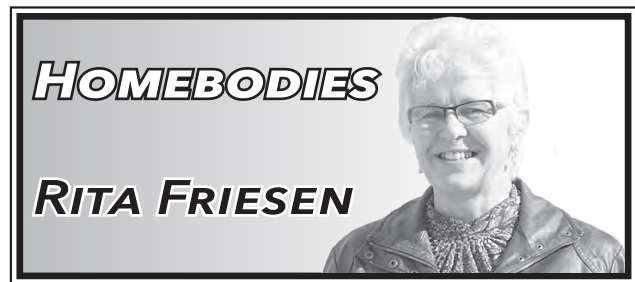
Some of the exclusions in the ban seem silly. Canoes, wake boards and paddle boards are banned. That means, so far, that even businesses won't be able to rent out pedal or paddle boats etc. It makes no sense. These crafts could be cleaned off and if they never leave Clear Lake, there shouldn't be a problem.

Parks Canada has a history of swatting flies with a sledge hammer and

this ban is another example. Back in the day when Parks Canada did everything it could to destroy the Mount Agassiz Ski Hill, they succeeded in doing so by making up rules that made no sense. They claimed that having skiers on Mount Agassiz was going to harm the environment somehow. Just down the road though, the old Kippen's Mill historical site has been allowed to rot into the ground. The last time I was there a few years ago, the signage was bad and the old mill pond safety fence to keep out both animals and people was so broken down there was no safety at all.

Parks Canada won't allow selective logging in the park but they do conduct selective controlled burning. Trouble is, those controlled burns don't always stay controlled and even if they do, thousands of small animals, birds and insects are destroyed in the fires. Instead of logging some of the very old or dead trees, they let the wind blow them down. I personally was at a family picnic at Clear Lake when a wind came up and several of the older trees came crashing down right beside us.

Many of the rules at Parks Canada are designed to spoil fun and destroy business, all the while pretending to be environmentally friendly. It seems that Parks Canada's policies have been set up to keep the parks people free. If that is the case, then why don't they just shut the parks down and save a lot of money?



Rainy day musing...

Arie and I went for a lovely long walk in the rain. The key concept is that once you are properly dressed for the rain- that's me- a walk in the rain is a beautiful thing. And for Arie, once you are wet it doesn't matter how much wetter you get! And so we walked. With my rain boots, it matter not if I dodged the puddles or plowed through them. And to my little dog, it didn't matter either way, both ways worked well. We put in our steps. Upon our arrival home Arie resisted being towelled dry, and hurried off to bed. I shucked my gear and followed her. There we were, under the covers, warming our chilled bones, and her drying off by dampening the linens. Before we knew an hour (or more!) had slipped away and it was snack time. For Arie it was mastering her new kibble dispenser, a pop up that allows food to trickle into a hollow, covered by a flip lid. It may be a new toy, but it didn't slow her down. I was not complaining, for as eager as she was for the dog food, was as eager as I was to read the legend and find my favourite chocolate in the luxury box I received on the weekend! So, long walk, long enough snooze, and treats- a perfect rainy day!

I'm between projects, and so a rainy day allows me to justify doing very little. I can read, or sit, or wander aimlessly around my home and yard. There is nothing I need to be doing, and for much of the time, nothing I want to be doing. I could cook or bake, but I have leftovers and chocolates. I could clean, but with the rainy forecast washing floors with Arie coming in and out is rather a waste of time and energy. I could putter in the garage, but I need materials for both of the projects underway, and I will pick those up tomorrow. So, food in the fridge, chocolates and no fixed goal- a perfect rainy day!

Folks have been asking me if travel is in my plans. Not in my immediate plans, for now. I logged on and followed Ineke and Ray's travels in Portugal: quaint towns, stunning scenery, flora and fauna to amaze, a wonderful daily journal for me to share. Sister the Elder is in Venice and regularly posts photos and explanations of her days there; exhibitions, cemeteries, cathedrals and dazzling sights and sites. I am seeing parts of the world without leaving my comfy chair, a steaming coffee in my hand and a dog on my lap - a perfect rainy day!

Did it take me getting old to enjoy a rainy day? Nope. As a child of a farmer a rainy day was all of the above and more. It was a day to get caught up with the tasks that had been delayed. It was a chance to sit over an afternoon cup of coffee, and more common than not, it was a day that a neighbour stopped by. There were seasons the day was not welcome- seeding, haying and harvest- we saw the rain as a gift. A perfect rainy day.

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Spring Care of the Water Garden

Submitted

BY PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Water gardens are a beautiful addition to any landscape. However, this spring chore can be fairly physical, so it might be good to have some help to get your water garden up and running.

Begin by removing any floating debris from the water. I am often amazed at the amount of "stuff" that ends up in the pond over the winter. If you have a pond with a flexible liner, then it is necessary to leave water in the pond over the winter. If you have a concrete lined pond the opposite is true and the water is removed prior to freeze-up. In spring if there is old water in the pond, it needs to be removed and fresh water put in. To remove the water that has been in the pond since last fall can be done by pail or by pump. My pond is quite large so a pail is out of the question. I use the same pump to remove the water as I do in the summer to circulate the water. However, to keep the pump in good running order I place the pump in a fine mesh bag in order to ensure that debris in the pond does not get into the pump.

If you happen to have any native pond plants still in the pond, they can be set up on the pond edge to allow good access to the entire pond. A good job while you are waiting for the pond to fill is to prune off any old or damaged leaves off of these plants. If the pot is overgrown, then now is a good time to repot. There are many different opinions on what kind of media to use but regardless of the media, ensure that you place a couple of inches of pea gravel on top to keep that media in the pot.

Once the water is removed, add additional water to



FILE PHOTO

clean out the last of the "muck". I like to use a corn broom to help remove any algae that is still stuck to the pond sides. If you happen to live in warmer climates you will need to pay attention to keeping some of those bacteria in place to keep the water balanced for the fish. However, on the prairies, it is not so typical for people to overwinter their fish outside. Although not impossible, it is in my opinion a phenomenal waste of energy. Because the pond fish are coming from an aquarium to the pond, I ensure that the water is ultra clean. Once the water is once again clean, leave the pond without plants or fish for a few days and add any treatments necessary for keeping the fish safe. This gives the water time to warm up appropriately.

As far as plants go – there is an endless array that you can add to your water garden. Plants add colour

and interest but more importantly keep your pond water cleaner. There are three types of plants to use in your water garden.

Oxygenator plants act as a natural filter in the pond. They utilize nutrients that algae would otherwise use, so having oxygenators will help to minimize the formation of algae. They also will produce oxygen that is needed by the fish. Some good choices for oxygenator plants include monkey tail, water crowfoot; water violet, hornwort and parrots feather.

Marginal plants would be typically found around the edge of a water body. They should be placed to look natural - as if they would normally grow there. In a man-made pond it is not always wet around the pond so to get a bog or a marginal area, simply bury a piece of pond liner or pvc that will hold water and create a bog! Good marginal plants include the native marsh marigold, sweet flag iris and the not so hardy yellow monkeyflower.

Floaters are plants that will cover the surface of the water. They are either plants that entirely float on the surface or plants that are potted and have leaves that will float on the water surface. They shade the water and help to keep the production of algae at a minimum. Waterlilies are of course the favourite floating flower of the pond. They need full sun and prefer still water. In order to get the best bloom, using fertilizer tabs is a must. Other floaters that are commonly used include water hyacinths, water lettuce and floating heart. Try to have enough floaters that 60% of the water surface is covered.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort. Tune into GROW Live on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/orchidhort> or check out the Youtube channel GROW <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzki-Upkvyv2e2HCQlF10JyQ?>

FRUIT PIZZA

A fruit covered cookie crust that is shaped like a pizza. Try using star fruit, peaches, bananas, kiwi, orange slices, blueberries, and pineapples.

Ingredients:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 (18 oz) pkg sugar cookie dough | 1/2 c white sugar |
| 1 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese, softened | 1 pinch salt |
| 1 (8 oz) frozen whipped topping, thawed | 1 tbsp cornstarch |
| 2 c sliced fresh strawberries | 1/2 c orange juice |
| 2 tbsps lemon juice | 1/4 c water |
| 1/2 tsp orange zest | |

Directions:

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Slice cookie dough and arrange on greased pizza pan, overlapping edges. Press dough flat into pan. Bake for 10 to 12 mins. Allow to cool.
- 2) In a large bowl, soften cream cheese, then fold in the whipped topping. Spread over cooled crust. You can chill for a while at this point, or continue by arranging the fruit.
- 3) Begin with strawberries, sliced in half. Arrange in a circle around the outside edge. Continue with fruit of your choice, working towards the middle. If bananas are used, dip them in lemon juice so they don't darken. Then make a sauce to spoon over fruit.
- 4) In a saucepan, combine sugar, salt, corn starch, orange juice, lemon juice and water. Cook and stir over medium heat. Bring to a boil, and cook for 1 or 2 mins, until thickened. Remove from heat, and add grated orange rind. Allow to cool, but not set up. Spoon over fruit. Chill for two hrs, then cut into wedges and serve.

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Tuesday, June 11th
Tundra Oil Gas Place, Virden
Sunrise Room

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Those who submitted membership applications before January 31st, 2024, will be eligible to vote.

Nominations for Director must be submitted in writing no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024.

The Nominating Committee Valleyview Consumers Co-op Ltd
Box 550, Virden, Manitoba, R0M 2C0
Email: hr@valleyview.coop www.valleyviewco-op.crs

Information, including by-laws copies and nomination forms, are available at all Valleyview Co-op locations.

Registration is required before June 10th, 2024, at 5:00 pm.
Register at 204-748-6700 ext 311 or online:

www.valleyviewco-op.crs

Breakaways, pole bending, and tie downs - MHSRA present t

...continued from page 1

Easton Beernaerts from Rapid City, wearing #11, competed in junior high barrel racing, placing fifth with a time of 18.148. She placed third in the junior high girl's breakaway and eighth in the junior high pole bending. Easton placed fifteenth in the junior high ribbon roping.

Emerson Beernaerts from Rapid City, wearing #17, competed in junior high barrel racing, placing sixteenth. Emerson placed seventeenth in the junior high pole bending.

Garrett Gompf from Oak Lake, wearing #21, completed in junior high boy's breakaway and placed fifth. He competed in junior high boy's goat tying, placing ninth with a time of 22.41. Garrett competed in junior high chute dogging, placing tenth. Garrett placed fifth in the junior high boy's breakaway and ninth in the junior high boy's goat tying. He placed tenth in the junior high chute dogging.

Hudson Bond from Kenton, wearing #40, competed in high school barrel racing, placing second with a time of 17.054. Hudson also competed in high school breakaway roping, placing fifth with a time of 13.13, and high school pole bending, placing tenth with a time of 24.275. Hudson also competed in high school team roping, placing eighth.

Jessica Wright from Rapid City, wearing #17, competed in high school barrel racing, placing seventeenth with a time of 18.161. She competed in high school goat tying, placing third with a time of 10.52. Jessica placed second in high school pole bending with a time of 22.625.

Jo-Hannah Logan from Lenore, wearing #20, competed in junior high barrel racing, placing eighteenth. She placed sixth in the junior high girl's breakaway and eighteenth in the junior high pole bending. Jo-Hannah placed sixteenth in the junior high ribbon roping.

Jorja Robins from Rapid City, wearing #29, competed in junior high barrel racing, placing ninth with a time of



PHOTOS BY JESSICA COULTER

Spencer Gompf of Oak Lake, MB competing in Junior High Tie Down Roping.



Maddie Warkentin of Virden, MB competing in High School Pole Bending.

18.99. She placed seventh in the junior high girl's breakaway and fourth in the junior high pole bending. Jorja placed second in the junior high ribbon roping with a time of 14.29.

Lane Nykolation from Hamiota, wearing #35, competed in high school team roping, placing second with 10 points and a time of 8.02. Lane placed third in high school tie down roping with a time of 27.9.

Ricki Hill from Lenore, wearing #7 school barrel racing, placing twenty- 19.91. She also competed in high school goat tying, placing twelfth and high school pole bending, placing

Spencer Gompf from Oak Lake, wearing #21, placed fifth in the junior high boy's goat tying, placing 17.81. Spencer competed in junior



2024 DUST CONTROL

Riverdale Municipality will accept requests for dust control application in front of residences and/or established sites within the Municipality on a pre-payment basis.

Payments are to be made to Riverdale Municipality at the municipal office in Rivers by May 22nd, 2024 at 4:30pm.

Calcium Application will be offered as follows:

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- d) 16' x 500' strip at a cost of \$530.00 +gst

Payments will be refunded if there are not enough applications for a truckload.

Policy PW_01-15, as amended, for Dust Control can be read in its entirety on our website.

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Celebrating moms who are in heaven Mother's Day a day to remember

By Glenice Wilson
 HEAVEN MOM TO CINDY ROUTLEDGE FROM LENORE

Years ago, Darren, a young boy I taught, sat in sadness as his classmates constructed Mother's Day cards and gifts. He had good reason to be sad, I thought, but I asked him if he had an aunt or a grandma he would like to honour instead. He agreed they were pretty special to him and it all worked out.

Since that day, I have considered the situation many times and wondered about a different approach. Did I provide the support he needed?

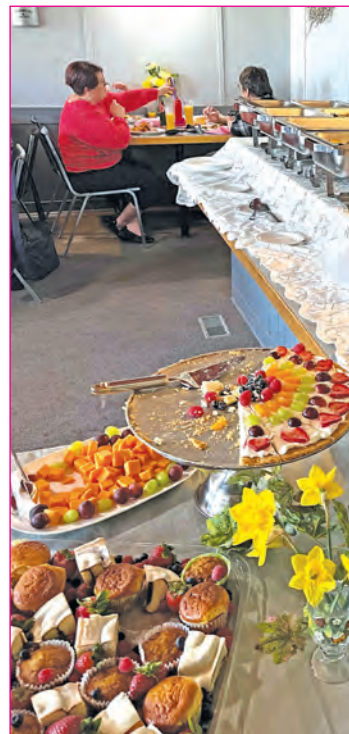
This is a wide variety of gifts and ideas for moms on Mother's Day. But retailers aim the event at Earth moms, one still here with us. For moms who are in heaven – where all moms go – gifts like that don't work so well.

What would a heaven mom want? I'm not sure, but I have a better idea than I did years ago. Now my mom is in heaven, too.

She has been there for a long time now, but I remember the first Mother's Day without her. I felt sad and alone and pretty left out while others celebrated. Perhaps then, I had an idea how Darren felt. And, if I could say to him, "I'm sorry," I would. I wish I'd asked him if he wanted to talk about his beautiful heaven mom.

Through the years, my heaven mom has taught me she just rests in a different spot. It's a special chamber in my heart that is full of love and light and helps me through my everyday life. This chamber is full of surprises, as she was, and they are not limited to Mother's Day.

It seems as if her voice, her words or her laughter sifts not



Mother's Day Brunch at Briarwood

only into my thoughts, but so is quietly available, no appointment my thinking no matter how s seems to understand my tears

the Oak Lake Sun Spring Rodeo



Gompf of Oak Lake, MB competing in High Boy's Breakaway.



Jo-Hannah Logan of Lenore, MB competing in Junior High Girl's Breakaway.

77, competed in high ninth with a time of ol breakaway roping, ng, placing thirteenth g sixteenth. aring #13, competed ng fifth with a time high chute dogging,

placing eleventh. He placed fifth in the junior high boy's goat tying. He placed eleventh in the junior high chute dogging and first in the junior high ribbon roping with a time of 14.29.

The MHSRA have over 27 years of experience. The province of Manitoba began hosting High School rodeos in 1995. For more details and for each of our community riders standings, please visit <https://mhsra.ca/>.

n heaven pecial times



PHOTO BY JESSICA COULTER
rwood Creek Cafe and Grill.

ometimes into my actions. She ntment necessary, to listen to illy or dreadful or terrific. She and my laughs and my worries.

No matter what our age, we still seem to do things only a mother could love and understand.

Mom would find a penny and say, "See a penny, pick it up and all the day you'll have good luck." So now, I pick up that penny and smile, and my day changes a little.

My mom was caring and thoughtful and always sent cards to everyone she knew. Everyone loved her and I'm sure Hallmark did, too. I could count on my mailbox to have a special delivered message.

Her last mail to me was memorable. I clutched the envelope in my hands as I ran down the Jasper post office steps on blue-sky mountain day. As I read the card and unfolded the handcrafted writing paper, I knew something was wrong. My world momentarily stopped. Something had ruptured the fluid script, jumbled the words and mangled the letters. I knew it would be my last card from Mom.

I re-examined the envelope and was amazed how it had found me. It was proof of a brutal battle with Alzheimer's. But it also displayed a struggle where love had won. It miraculously had arrived and, in her efforts, her love shone brightly. The energy and love of that special letter are a wonderful keepsake.

So, on Mother's Day (but not limited to), I'll write in my journal about her or even a fun letter to her. Sometimes I go for a walk to hunt for crocuses or pussy willows as she and I used to do. With my heaven mom, I can still dance and sing and be a child again – no matter how old I am. My heaven mom and I get closer each year. She even seems smarter now than when I was a teen. If you have a heaven mom, listen and watch closely to the things around you. Take some time for a nice walk or just sit with her. Tell her that you love her and see how she shines through you.

Make those special cookies, or wear something that would make her laugh, or pass on one of her kindnesses. You are her gift...feelspecial. Celebrate. Not everyone has a heaven mom.

Glenice Wilson was a freelance writer who lived in Bar-

Gardening for Mom



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Celia Nolan showing the kids how to plant a flower for Mother's Day.

By Jessica Coulter
RIVERS BANNER

Friday, May 10 was a PD for kids in the Kenton area and Mid-West Arts Council wanted to help out by making an event for the kids that could also be a gift for mom for Mother's Day.

Celia Nolan and Mary Ann Stevenson decided to take some terracotta pots they had at the art centre and use them to create an arts project with the kids. Eighteen kids showed up for the event which was a wonderful surprise. Celia and Marianne were not expecting so many to come out.

In the dining area of the Kenton Legion, with plastic table clothes laid out, the children painted their terracotta pots with flowers, poke-a-dots, hearts and strips, anything they thought their mom might like. Once the pots were dry, the group headed outside to the Legion outdoor patio and learned how to plant a pansy in the pot.

Celia Nolan said, "the children were lovely, so polite. They followed the directions very well and all took home a gift for mom for Mother's Day."

The dirt was donated by Rilla Hunter from All About Flowers greenhouse in Kenton. The flowers were provided by the Mid West Arts Council Heritage Art Centre.



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All tenders will be opened on May 21st, 2024 at 1:30PM

For more information please refer to the municipal tenders at www.riversdaly.ca

For inquiries, contact:
Darrel Link, Manager of Municipal Operations
Office: (204) 328-5300
Email: dalyshop1@gmail.com



How students can prepare for standardized tests

Submitted
METRO CREATIVE

Standardized tests remain a significant part of the academic experience for millions of students at all grade levels. Though many colleges and universities no longer require the standardized tests for admission, experts note that many of those schools still value such tests and how applicants who choose to take them perform.

Students who want to take standardized tests can take various steps to ensure they do their best and make the decision to take the tests work to their advantage.

Prepare as if you're taking the test early. It's never too early for high school students to begin thinking about college. This gives them ample time to find a tutor or test preparation program so they can perform their best.

Utilize preparation services. Standardized tests carry a lot of weight, even at schools that no longer require them, so professional test preparation services can be a good investment. Parents can work with their children to find a tutor or preparation program in advance of their scheduled testing date. Some programs are lengthier and more intensive than others, but families can identify which type of program can most benefit the student. Some students may just need a post-

summer refresher, while others may benefit from a more intensive program.

Look for free programs and resources. Books on preparing for tests may be available for free at your local library. In the latter example, parents and students should confirm that any preparation guidebooks are up-to-date. Testing has changed significantly over the years, so students won't want to be looking over prep materials that no longer reflect modern tests.

Take practice tests. Practice tests can be invaluable. Such tests can indicate where students are strong and any areas they should seek to improve.

Time your practice tests. Standardized tests are timed. Students can prepare for that by tak-



PHOTO BY METRO CREATIVE

ing timed practice tests. The more acclimated students become to testing situations, the better they're likely to perform.

Standardized tests can put pressure on students. One of the ways students can alleviate that pressure is to prepare for tests in advance so they're as comfortable as possible on the day of the test.

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|----------------|-------------|---------------|--|
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| Head Custodian | Onanole, MB | 5.5 | Elementary - Evening Shift 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm <i>Some early morning split shifts may be required for snow removal</i> |

Qualifications Required:

- Grade 12 or equivalent
- Ability to take initiative and work unsupervised
- Ability to work effectively with others as a member of a team
- Ability to communicate effectively with people both orally and in writing
- Physically fit and capable of performing physically demanding work

Cleaner Preferred Qualifications: (training provided as needed)

- Current WHMIS training and certification
- Prior work-related cleaning experience
- Valid Class 5 Drivers License

Head Custodian Preferred Qualifications: (training provided as needed)

- Current WHMIS training and certification
- Prior work-related cleaning and/or building maintenance experience
- A working knowledge of and experience with commercial cleaning equipment
- Prior successful experience planning work activities, providing workload direction or employee supervision
- Valid Class 5 Drivers License

The successful applicant will:

- work effectively under pressure, within defined timeframes and with a variety of people in a team environment
- work well independently, be flexible, adjust to changing work assignments and deal with and maintain confidential information
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Training will be provided to the successful applicant.

Salary as per C.U.P.E. Collective Agreement:

Cleaner \$18.52 per hour

Head Custodian \$20.06 - \$21.36 per hour

For further information please contact Mr. Fred Scott, Maintenance Supervisor at 867-2754 Ext. 239 • fscott@rrsd.mb.ca

**Applications will be reviewed on Thursday May 23, 2024.
Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.**

Applicants are requested to submit a covering letter with a comprehensive resume, addressing the stated qualifications and naming three work related references to the following:

Sarah Woychyszyn
Administrative Assistant, Human Resources
Rolling River School Division
PO Box 1170
Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0
Phone: 204-867-2754 Ext 244 • Fax: 204-867-2037
Email: swoychyszyn@rrsd.mb.ca

Thank you to all applicants for their interest in Rolling River School Division. Only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

Employment is conditional upon an acceptable Criminal Record and Child Abuse Registry Check. Rolling River School Division welcomes applications from people with disabilities, accommodations are available upon request during the assessment and selection process.

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Rivers Banner GAZETTE REPORTER



RM of Oakview Council meeting minutes

April 8, 2024

Submitted
RM OF OAKVIEW

Present: Reeve Christie, Councillors: Aaroe, Evans, Gill, Hyndman, Reynolds and Christie, ACAO: Donna Anderson

Hyndman/Reynolds

Be it resolved that we do hereby authorize administration to move Invoice A/R-000000084 to the respective tax roll. Carried

Mark Gill left his chair to present as a delegation. Following his delegation Gill left the meeting.

Hyndman/Reynolds

Be it resolved that the delegation information presented to Council by Mark Gill be hereby received. Carried

Council approved the 2024 grant to Minnedosa Regional Archives in the amount of \$1,500 and \$1000 to Clack Family Museum.

Christie/Aaroe

Be it resolved the Reeve and Acting CAO be hereby authorized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding as presented by Hamiota Municipality for the provision of emergency services to residents in the event of an evacuation as a result of an emergency. Carried

Aaroe/Evans

Be it resolved we do hereby authorize the Reeve and Acting CAO to sign the Automobile Proof of Loss & Salvage Release for the 2010 Dodge Ram 1500 for Claim number 69634401 in the amount of \$11,205.04. Carried

Hyndman/Reynolds

Be it resolved that we do hereby authorize the Public Works Supervisor to view and purchase a public works vehicle within the budget of \$55,000.00. Carried

Evans/Christie

Be it resolved that we do hereby authorize Wilco van Meijl to utilize gravel from E1/2 14-13-20WPM, for personal use; Further be it resolved that we confirm that the RM of Oakview is not waiving any interest it may have in the gravel or property as per Caveat # 23720. Carried

Hyndman/Aaroe

Be it resolved that the report of the Finance Committee be received and that R. M. of Oakview's General Cheque's #10761 – 10804, payroll Cheque's #55465 - 55481, including pre-authorized payments amounting to \$168,695.93. Carried

LUD Kenton Committee meeting minutes

March 21, 2024

Submitted
LUD KENTON

Present-Chairperson Dennis Hemrica, Councillors Diana MacDonald and Bob Good, ACAO Iris Vercaigne and Kenton LUD Manager Marty Sigurdson.

Kenton LUD Manager, Marty Sigurdson shared a letter with the Kenton LUD Committee from concerned residents regarding establishing a backup plan in the event of a prolonged power outage. Administration will gather more information on the concern and share the correspondence with Council.

Good/MacDonald-

That the January 2024 Kenton LUD Financial Report be hereby adopted as amended. Carried

MacDonald/Good-

That the February 2024 Kenton LUD Financial Report be hereby adopted as presented. Carried

ACAO, Iris Vercaigne shared the RFP and map location for the proposed sidewalk repair/ replacement on Cornwall Street with the Kenton LUD Committee.

Kenton LUD Manager, Marty Sigurdson shared that the 2024 Green Team position has been advertised.

The Kenton LUD Committee discussed

the purchase of dog waste stations. Kenton LUD Manager, Marty Sigurdson will order two stations.

Kenton LUD Manager, Marty Sigurdson shared the upcoming Animal Vaccination Clinic on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 in the Kenton Fire Hall.

Committee member Bob Good reported on the recent foot clinic and Valentine's & St. Patrick luncheons.

The Kenton LUD Committee discussed: the sold infill lot; available John Estate lots; Service Tracker items; and the upcoming Financial Plan Hearing.



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Kenton Rec Planning Summary

By Marty Sigurdson
KENTON LUD MANAGER

In conclusion to the meeting held on Thursday, May 2, topics discussed were:

The role of the R.M and the Kenton LUD Manager regarding help with facilitating recreational programs; follow up reports; insurance; and grants.

- Marty will source possible instructors; collect registrations and payments; secure facilities; prepare final reports on programs; source and prepare applicable grants.

- Programs initiated through the R.M will be covered by R.M insurance.

Recreational programs discussed: nature trails; art club; pickleball; tennis; basketball; garden club; summer camps; wellness group; and driving range.

- Possible facilities to be used for programs. Kenton Hall; Kenton School Gym; Kenton Community Rink; Kenton Dam; Kenton Bandstand; Kenton Council Chamber; Kenton Ball Diamond; Kenton Legion basement.

- Look into cost feasibility and possible discounts for multi-use in rental venues.

- KCAC multi-function court and community storage shed.

Ball diamonds – discussed possible uses; cost; and maintenance. Adam Fordyce will source the cost of equipment for a driving range.

Possible playground structure at Legion Playground area or Kenton Bandstand area. Information will be gathered on interest of location and possible grants.



Governments of Canada, Manitoba increase funding for child-care professionals' wages

Submitted
MANITOBA GOVERNMENT

Manitoba's licensed and funded child-care facilities will receive a funding increase to support wages for child-care professionals, federal Families, Children and Social Development Minister Jenna Sudds and Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning Minister Nello Altomare announced today.

"We cannot build a Canada-wide early learning and child-care system without the dedicated and hard-working early childhood workforce," said Sudds. "The work educators do is vital in shaping the future of our youngest citizens. The federal government is happy to see the province making efforts to boost wage supports, recognizing the value of educators and ensuring child care remains a rewarding career. This investment strengthens our commitment to both our children and their caregivers."

Manitoba's early learning and child-care wage grid sets recommended starting-point and target wages for various positions within the early learning and child-care sector. The province provides facilities with a wage grid supplement. This additional funding helps facilities increase wages to meet the wage grid levels. Funding for wages in 2024-25 will increase by 2.75 per cent beginning July 1 for a total additional funding contribution of \$10.9 million: \$10.3 million from the government of Canada and \$600,000 from the Manitoba government.

"Our government knows that the key to a child-care system that supports families in our province is investing in child-care professionals," said Altomare. "This wage increase, as well as more than doubling the operating grant funding per cent increase from last year, will enable child-care facilities to offer fair, consistent and competitive wages."

The wage grid is a key initiative of Manitoba's

child-care workforce strategy. This funding increase will improve recruitment and retention efforts for a qualified child-care workforce, supporting the target to expand the child-care system by 23,000 spaces by 2026, said Altomare.

The governments of Canada and Manitoba have also increased base operating grants for all licensed and provincially funded child-care facilities by five per cent, for a total additional contribution of \$8.97 million, with \$2.55 million provided by Canada and \$6.42 million provided by Manitoba, effective April 1. This base operating grant funding increase will further support wages and can also help facilities address other cost pressures they have been experiencing including rent, programming and food costs.

Funding increases to the wage grid supplement and operating grants are provided by both the federal and provincial governments through the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. Signed in August 2021, the five-year funding commitment is directed at building a Canada-wide early learning and child-care system. Manitoba will receive \$1.2 billion in federal funding over five years to reduce the average out-of-pocket parent fees for licensed child care to \$10-a-day and to expand access to more high-quality, inclusive child-care spaces for

children under the age of seven.

Under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the province is conducting a comprehensive review of the wage and benefits framework for the early learning and child-care workforce. This review aims to develop an approach that enhances recruitment and retention efforts now and into the future. Consultations with the sector are underway and the review is expected to be completed in 2025, noted Altomare.

For more information on the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, visit www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/actionplan.html and www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/manitoba-canada-wide-2021.html.

Manitoba Habitat Conservancy

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Letter to the Editor

May 10th, 2024 — The cost of living in Manitoba continues to rise at an alarming rate, along with the frustration of Manitobans over the NDP government's unwillingness to do anything to stop it.

Things continue to get worse for families in our province under the NDP. Manitoba's food inflation soared to 3.3 per cent in March, hiking grocery prices higher and faster here than in neighbouring Saskatchewan and Ontario. While families put meat and vegetables back onto supermarket shelves because they simply can't afford them, they're looking to the premier for leadership that is nowhere in sight.

Where are Wab Kinew and his finance minister, Adrien Sala, on their promise last year to lower food prices and Kinew's empty threats to crack down on grocers who continue to raise them? The premier and minister are saying little and doing less, and their tired talking points don't help families cover the costs of groceries. This NDP government is giving Manitobans only dishonest rhetoric, empty promises, and false hope.

It's the same lack of accountability from Kinew and Sala on the NDP's irresponsible taxation. Instead of investing properly and substantially in education with their new budget, they are pushing school divisions to raise taxes on Manitoba families in order to pay for the school system. As well, the NDP has capped an education property tax rebate at 2023 levels, cut construction of 9 new schools and ended the phase-out of education property taxes while increasing taxes on homeowners

by \$148 million.

Kinew's empty promises on cost-of-living concerns are most glaring with the federal carbon tax. After flip-flopping multiple times over whether he would join seven other premiers in opposing the tax, he stood by while it increased by 23 per cent in April. The premier's failure to firmly stand with Manitoba homeowners against the tax, particularly on home heating, comes as more than \$143 million in carbon tax revenue is owed to over 43,000 small businesses province wide. Kinew has been silent on the federal government's 44 per cent cut in carbon tax rebates to small businesses as well.

Manitobans need much more than the NDP's brief gasoline tax break, which will end this fall. They need a government that takes real and lasting action to lower inflation or to help them handle it. What the NDP are doing, instead, is adding to the burden with a \$5-billion increase to the province's net debt by the spring of next year, at a rate that would mean another \$20 billion in debt by 2028. This kind of soaring spending has increased debt servicing this year to the third largest government department and can only lead to more NDP tax increases.

Instead of assistance and accountability, Manitobans struggling with inflation are getting rising taxes, increased provincial debt and empty promises from the NDP government, which is not as advertised.

Grant Jackson,
MLA for Spruce Woods

Statement on the decision by Parks Canada to ban watercraft from Clear Lake

Submitted

By GREG NESBITT, MLA FOR RIDING MOUNTAIN

The federal government's decision is disappointing and devastating news for Riding Mountain communities and the Parkland economy.

While I strongly disagree with this decision, it is clear the Manitoba NDP has failed to take the threat of invasive zebra mussels seriously and are not stepping forward to support the families and businesses who rely on our tourism industry for their livelihoods.

Since last year, I have been urging the NDP government to add boat inspection stations in Dauphin and Russell, and to work with Parks Canada to prevent any potential spread of invasive mussels out of Clear Lake into downstream tributaries. Proactive and regular water testing and mobilizing our dedicated Conservation Officer Service to enforce boat inspections will protect our waterways and communities. It will send a clear message to the federal government, and the public, that Manitoba takes aquatic invasive species seriously.

It took the NDP five years to act when zebra mussels came to Manitoba under their watch in 2009. Our battle to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species is extremely important and Manitobans can't afford to repeat the costs of NDP inaction.

We need the NDP government, boaters, and everyone else playing in and on Manitoba's waterways to get on board to protect Clear Lake and Riding Mountain National Park.

gregnesbittmla@mymts.net
204-759-3313

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 17

18

YARD SALE
Rivers Town Wide Yard Sale
9am - 3pm
Rivers Grad BBQ at Co-op
11am - 1pm
Rapid City High School Rodeo

19

20
Happy Victoria Day

Cowboy Trail Ride - Lucky Break Ranch

21



SWBL - Hamiota vs Virden in Hamiota 7pm

22



SWBL - Rivers vs Oak River in Rivers 7pm

23

Crib Night Rivers Legion 7pm

24



SWBL - Oak River vs Hamiota in Oak River 7pm

25



26

SWBL - Hamiota vs Reston in Hamiota 6pm

27



SWBL - Rivers vs Elkhorn in Rivers 7pm

28

29

Hamiota Centennial Library 40th Anniversary Celebrates

SWBL - Oak River vs Wawanesa in Oak River 7pm

Crib Night Rivers Legion 7pm

30

31



SWBL - Rivers vs Hamiota in Rivers 7pm

June 1

Oak Lake High School Rodeo

